



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

Raised Bill No. 89

LCO No. 678



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:
(PD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS BY TOWN
BOARDS OF FINANCE WITHOUT TOWN MEETING APPROVAL.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 7-348 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

3 No officer of such town shall expend or enter into any contract by
4 which the town shall become liable for any sum which, with any
5 contract then in force, shall exceed the appropriation for the
6 department, except in cases of necessity connected with the repair of
7 highways, bridges, sidewalks and water and sewer systems and the
8 care of the town poor, and then not more than one thousand dollars. If
9 any occasion arises whereby more money is needed for any
10 department of the town than has been appropriated as provided for in
11 this chapter, the selectmen shall notify the board of finance of such
12 fact, and the chairman of such board shall forthwith call a meeting
13 thereof to consider the appropriation for such department and the
14 board may make the necessary appropriation therefor, after inquiry,
15 but, if, in towns where the grand list is not more than twenty million

16 dollars, the amount required or the amount required, together with the
17 sum of any additional appropriations made by the board for such
18 department within the same fiscal year, exceeds [ten] twenty thousand
19 dollars, or, in towns where the grand list exceeds twenty million
20 dollars, if the amount required or the amount required, together with
21 the sum of any such additional appropriations, exceeds [twenty] forty
22 thousand dollars, such appropriation shall not be made until, upon the
23 recommendation of the board, the same has been voted by the town at
24 a meeting called for such purpose, provided no more than one such
25 additional appropriation for any one department shall be made in one
26 year without town meeting approval, and provided the board may
27 make additional appropriations for the care of town poor without
28 town meeting approval not exceeding, in the aggregate, [two] four
29 thousand dollars in towns where the grand list does not exceed twenty
30 million dollars or [four] eight thousand dollars in towns where the
31 grand list exceeds twenty million dollars. The board may call a public
32 hearing prior to the town meeting at which parties in interest and
33 citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard so that the board may
34 obtain information to assist in making its recommendations. The
35 amount required for such appropriation may be drawn either from any
36 cash surplus available or from any contingent fund established as
37 hereinafter provided. If no cash surplus exists and no funds are
38 available in the contingent fund, such appropriation may be financed
39 by borrowing, and the amount of such borrowing shall be included in
40 and made a part of the next tax levied. The estimate of expenditures
41 submitted by the board of finance to the annual town meeting or
42 annual budget meeting may include a recommended appropriation for
43 a contingent fund in an amount not to exceed three per cent of the total
44 estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year. No expenditure or
45 transfer shall be made from the contingent fund until such expenditure
46 or transfer has been approved by the board of finance. The provisions
47 of this chapter shall not be a limitation upon the town in issuing bonds
48 under the provisions of law or expending the proceeds thereof in
49 accordance with the vote of such town nor shall such provisions be a

50 limitation upon the settlement of claims or judgments against the town
51 under the provisions of law.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
---	--	--

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2016</i>	7-348
-----------	------------------------	-------

Statement of Purpose:

To increase the amount of additional appropriations a town board of finance may appropriate without town meeting approval.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]